

Amendments to the Figures:

Amendments to the figures are shown on the appended sheet 4 of 21 (FIGS. 4 and 5) and sheet 16 of 21 (FIG. 23). In FIGS. 4 and 5, reference numeral 59 has been added and in FIG. 23 reference numeral 114 has been added. These sheets are annotated as replacements sheets.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of these replacement sheets in the application file.

Applicant also submits concurrently herewith, a set of formal drawings that include the above-noted changes for entry in the application file.

Remarks:

In response to the Office action mailed November 1, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, reexamination and allowance of claims 1-2 and 5-10 in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has first objected to the drawings on a number of grounds. First, the Examiner notes that reference numerals 114 and 154 are mentioned in the specification but not shown in the drawings.

Applicant has amended FIG. 23 to include numeral 114 and directs the Examiner's attention to FIG. 8 which shows spring 154. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw these objections.

Next, the Examiner has objected to drawings in that reference numeral 102 is not mentioned in the description. Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to paragraph 0062 which provides that "[t]he inner and outer walls 88, 90 are mounted to the chute outer housing 100 at the corner supports 98 by biased pin assemblies 102." Applicant thus respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Next, the Examiner has objected to the drawings on the grounds that the features "a pair of wheels in the strapping head" in claim 1 and "springs" in claim 8 must be shown or cancelled from the claims.

Accordingly, applicant has amended claim 1 to cancel the phrase "a pair of wheel . . ." As to "springs", Applicant directs that Examiners attention to the discussion above regarding reference numeral 102 and the biased pin assemblies. It is seen that the bias is provided by a spring. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw these objections as well.

Next, the Examiner has objected to the specification on the grounds that reference numeral 38 on page 7 at line 3 should be changed to read --40--. Applicant however disagrees. The discussion in this paragraph is directed to the inner paddle 38; the discussion regarding the outer paddle 40 is presented in, among others, paragraphs 0055 and 0056.

The Examiner has also objected to the use of reference character 58 to indicate both the enlarged portion and the pivot pin. Applicant has, as noted above, amended the specification to

change enlarged portion to reference number 59 and has amended FIGS. 4 and 5 accordingly. Applicant respectfully submits that this objection has now been fully addressed and that it be withdrawn.

Next, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Hoshino, U.S. Patent No. 6,655,117 and has rejected claims 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hoshino in view of Pearson, U.S. Patent No. 5,078,057. The Examiner has also indicated that claims 4-8 contain allowable subject matter.

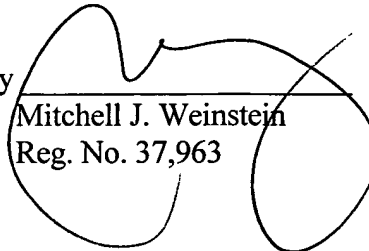
Applicant has amended claims 1 and 5 and cancelled claims 3-4 and submits that as amended, the claims pending are allowable over the art of record and in condition for allowance and respectfully and earnestly solicits early indication of same.

In connection with the drawings in the present application, Applicant files concurrently herewith a set of formal drawings with the above noted changes, for entry in the application file.

Applicant submits that no fee is due in connection with the present AMENDMENT A. If, however, there is a fee due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0920.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution and allowance of the present application, or address any outstanding formal issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Mitchell J. Weinstein
Reg. No. 37,963

January 31, 2005
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza, 22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 655-1500 Telephone
(312) 655-1501 Facsimile



4/21

Fig. 4

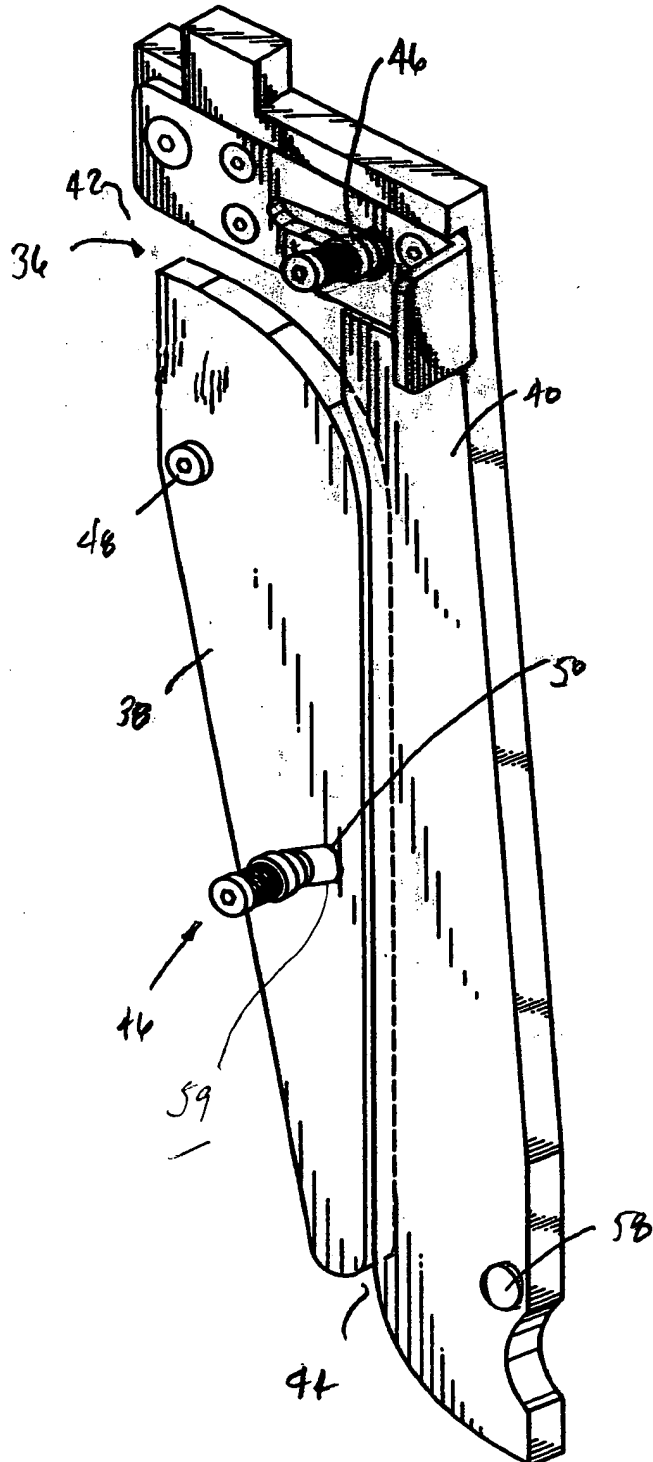
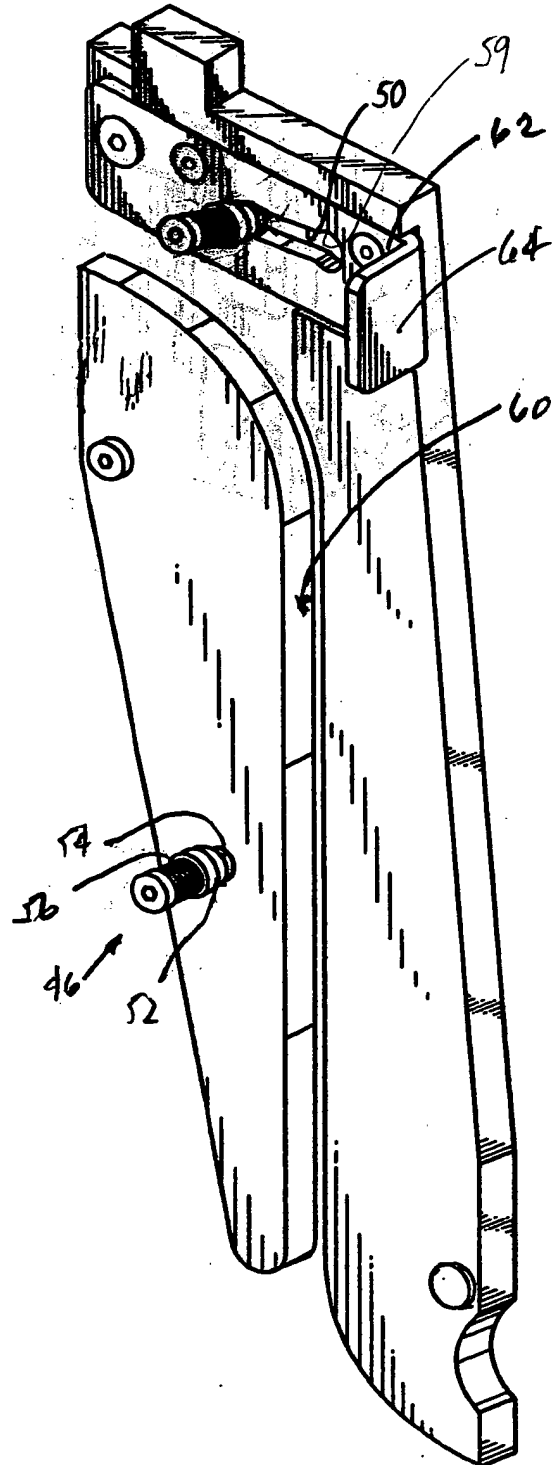
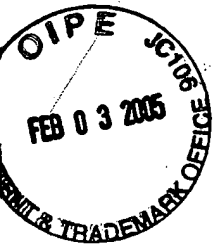


Fig. 5





14/21

Fig. 23

